

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
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USIAC

STATE FOR NEA/ARP

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - CARTER STATEMENT ON DEFENSIBLE
BORDERS

1. MOST DAILIES ON MARCH 13 GAVE PROMINENCE TO SADAT
IMPLIED CRITICISM OF CARTER STATEMENT ON ISRAEL'S
"DEFENSIBLE BORDERS..." HEADLINES AS FOLLOWS:
KUWAIT TIMES, "SADAT REJECTS CARTER'S CALL FOR MINOR
ADJUSTMENTS - ALL OCCUPIED LANDS MUST BE FREED...";
AL QABAS, "SADAT CRICIZES CARTER WITHOUT NAMING HIM...";
AL ANBA, "SADAT REPLIED TO CARTER --WE REFUSE TO DIS-
CUSS IDEA OF SECURE BORDERS ...", AL SIYASA, "SADAT REPLIES
TO CARTER INDIRECTLY..."

2. TOP POLITICAL ANALYST IN KUWAIT, MUSTAFA ABU LIBDEH,
ELABORATES IN AL SIYASA ON MARCH 13. COMMENTARY CAP-
TIONED "WASHINGTON EMBARRASSES HER FRIENDS. BUT WHY?"
LIBDEH MENTIONS CIA/HUSSEIN DISCLOSURE AND "CARTER'S
RECENT STATEMENT ON ISRAEL'S DEFENSIBLE BORDERS..."
HE OBSERVES, "QUICK IMPRESSIONS CONVEY TWO POSSIBILI-
TIES..."; EITHER "THE AMERICAN POSITION WAS ADOPTED
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AFTER VANCE'S MIDDLE EAST VISIT, IN AGREEMENT WITH THE
ARAB COUNTRIES HE VISITED...WHICH WOULD REFLECT ARAB
CONCESSIONS AND BE AN EMBARRASSMENT TO THOSE REGIMES..."
OR "THE AMERICAN THEORY OF DEFENSIBLE BORDERS WAS DEVEL-
OPED SEPARTELY, WHICH MEANS ARAB VIEWS...ARE OF LITTLE
VALUE..." IRRESPECTIVE, NOTES LIBDEH, "THE RESULT
REMAINS AN EMBARRASSMENT TO WASHINGTON'S FRIENDS IN THE

MIDDLE EAST..." WHO ARE NOW ATTEMPTING TO ANALYZE
WHETHER CARTER'S REMARKS WERE "DELIBERATE..." AND
"WHAT ARE HIS LONG TERM OBJECTIVES..."

3. KUWAIT TIMES, IN A SECOND FRONT PAGE STORY ON MARCH
13 ALLUDES TO "DISAPPOINTMENT IN KUWAIT ..." ALLEGING
"KUWAIT OFFICIALS SAID THAT PRESIDENT CARTER SHOULD
IN FACT HAVE ASKED RABIN TO COOPERATE IN REACHING AN
URGENT AND PROMPT SOLUTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM
AND BACKED THE RESTORATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN
PEOPLE, INSTEAD OF MAKING STATEMENTS WHICH WOULD ONLY
NEGATE ALL THESE..." FURTHER, THE ARTICLE CLAIMS,
"PRESIDENT CARTER'S REMARKS MEAN AN EMBODIMENT OF
OCCUPATION BY FORCE, WHICH IS REJECTED BY THE UN
CHARTER..." AND QUOTES KUWAIT OFFICIALS AS SAYING,
"IF THEY (THE U.S.) SEEK TO LEGALIZE ISRAEL'S FRUITS
OF AGRESSION, IT IS NOT A CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE..."
THE WRITER COMMENTS THAT THESE SAME "OFFICIALS..."
ADVISE THAT ARAB LEADERS "WHO ARE NOW SLATED TO GO TO
WASHINGTON SHOULD GIVE NO QUARTER TO THIS LINE AND MAKE
THEIR POINT COMPLETELY CLEAR TO THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT
..." NOTE: NO OTHER LOCAL DAILY QUOTED REACTION OF
"KUWAIT OFFICIALS" NOT DOES THE "KUWAIT TIMES REPORTER"
REVEAL HIS SOURCES. THE SO-CALLED QUOTATIONS SHOULD
NOT BE TAKEN AS GOK POLICY STATEMENT.

4. BUT UNSIGNED EDITORIAL IN KUWAIT TIMES, MARCH 13,
CONTINUES BELABOUR SAME THEME SAYING, "UNITED STATES IS
VITUALLY A PRISONER OF ISRAELI DESIGNS ...NO AMERICAN
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ADMINISTRATION WILL EVER BE ABLE TO DISENGAGE ITSELF
EVEN REMOTELY FROM THE CLUTCHES OF THE ISRAELIS AND THEIR
AMERICAN ZIONIST BENEFACTORS..." WRITER VIEWS CARTER
STATEMENT AS SOME SORT OF PLOY TO "ENSURE THAT GENEVA
CONFERENCE NEVER GETS GOING..." THIS MEANS THAT ARABS
"WILL HAVE TO DESPAIR OF A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT
TOTALLY AND THING AND PREPARE IN TERMS OF A NEW
CONFRONTATION. CARTER MAY NOT HAVE BARGAINED FOR IT, BUT HIS
PERFORMANCE MAKES THE PROSPECT OF A NEW WAR WITH
ISRAEL BRIGHT INDEED...IT WILL ALSO FORCE A NEW WARMTH IN
ARAB-SOVIET...RELATIONS AND LEAD EVENTUALLY TO A BREAKDOWN
OF SPIRIT OF DETENTE AS FAR AS THE MIDDLE EAST IS
CONCERNED..."

5. TWO PAPERS, AL WATAN AND AL RAI AL AAM, REFRAINED
FROM CONNECTING SADAT'S REMARKS AT THE 13TH SESSION OF
THE NATIONAL PALESTINIAN COUNCIL TO IMPLIED CRITICISM
OF CARTER STATEMENTS. BUT KUWAIT TIMES, AL RAI AL AAM
AND AL ANBA ALL CARRIED WIRE SERVICE STORIES ON PRAVDA'S

CRITICISM OF CARTER.

6. ALL PAPERS, ON MARCH 12, NOTED THAT ARAB ENVOYS IN WASHINGTON WOULD BE MEETING WITH VANCE TO DISCUSS THE "DEFENSIBLE BORDER" STATEMENT BUT ONLY FOUR CARRIED BRIEF NEWS ITEMS ON MARCH 13 REGARDING THE OUTCOME, DUE MOST LIKELY TO FACT THAT NEWS BROKE LATE. SUBJECT WILL PROBABLY RECEIVE FURTHER ELABORATION TOMORROW. BATOR

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